

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please amend the drawings as shown in the attached replacement sheet. Specifically, Figure 8 is amended to remove reference numbers 413 and 422, as these reference numbers are not mentioned in the Specification. No new matter is added by way of the amended drawing.

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-18 are currently pending. Claim 1 is independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1.

Attorney Docketing Number

Please change the attorney docket number for this case from 17102/023001 to 17258/002001.

Drawings

The Examiner objects to the drawings for including reference numbers 413 and 422 which are not described in the Specification. Figure 8 is amended by this reply to remove reference numbers not mentioned in the Specification. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection and acceptance of the amended drawings is respectfully requested.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner asserts that the phrase “extends discontinuously” is unclear. The aforementioned phrase has been removed from claim 14. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,384,494 (“Avidano”). For the following reasons, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

For anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102, “[a] claim is anticipated only if *each and every element* as set forth in the claims is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631 (Fed. Cir. 1987) (emphasis added). Further, “[t]he identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim.” *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

The claimed invention relates to a fan provided with a motor, where the motor is cooled by an air flow created by the fan. The invention aims at avoiding bypass circulation of air flow in order to maximize the cooling effect of the fan. Accordingly, the claimed invention requires, in part, “a support comprising a central part connected in a substantially seal manner.” Applicant respectfully asserts that Avidano fails to disclose the aforementioned limitation.

Avidano discloses a fan motor 2 cooled by an air flow created by a fan 3. In Avidano, in order to maximize the air flow through the motor 2, a ring 32 directs the air flow toward the motor 2. However, Avidano addresses a different kind of motor in which the rotor 4 is provided externally (the stator 7 being provided internally). As a consequence, the fan system 32 is provided with a gap between the ring 32 and the rotor 4 (the ring 32 is said to be linked to the stator 8 – see col. 2, ll. 59-61 “it is not actuated by the rotor...the gap is necessary to enable the motion of the rotor.” Without the gap that is present in the cooling system of Avidano, the air flow could not enter the motor (fins 26 being further provided to induce heat exchange between such air flow and the part 22 of stator).

In the claimed invention, the external part of the motor (i.e. the housing) is not actuated and is fixed on the support 130 *without any gap*. That is, the central part of the support is connected in a substantially sealed manner to the motor. The Examiner equates element 32 of Avidano with the support of the claimed invention. *See* Office Action p. 8. Element 32 in Avidano is an annular separator, and is not a central part of support 40. In equating element 32 with the claimed support, the Examiner has mischaracterized the prior art. When comparing Avidano with the present invention, the equivalent component to the claimed support in Avidano is actually element 31 (the support structure shown in Figure 1 of Avidano) which is provided with a hole in which the motor (part 22 of the stator 8) is inserted. Said another way, in Avidano, the motor is attached to the central part of the support 31 with a gap. The gap has the function to let the air flow enter the motor. As a consequence, the cooling system of Avidano cannot be considered as being substantially sealed or substantially air tight, as required by the claimed invention.

Moreover, the gap between the rotor 8 and the ring 32 should not be taken into account when evaluating if the connection between the motor and its support is air tight because the ring 32 cannot be considered as a [central] part of **the support**. Ring 32 is an internal component of the motor as is said in col. 2, ll. 54-55 of Avidano (extending from its stator). Accordingly, it is clear that Avidano fails to disclose “a support comprising a central part connected in a substantially seal manner.” In fact, in quite the opposite manner, Avidano specifically has a hole through which cooled air flow is permitted to reach the motor.

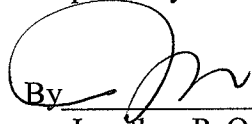
In view of the above, it is clear that the Examiner's contentions fail to support an anticipation rejection of independent claim 1. Pending dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 17258/002001).

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments (Replacement Sheet for Figure 8)